

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-reference application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 11, 14, 16, 24 and 25 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-14, 16-18, 20, 21, and 23-25 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 16 is "objected to." Claim 16 is amended herein to overcome the objection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-14, 16-18, 20, 21, AND 23-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claim 11 (as amended herein) of the present invention recites, "a frame formed in a box form to contain said optical module, said first converging lens and said second converging lens" (see page 16, lines 22 through 25 of the Applicant's specification); "a contact surface with said apparatus-side communication unit provided on said frame" (see page 16, lines 3 through 9); and "a shielding section to optically shield light between said first converging lens and said second converging lens, and to enable simultaneous bi-directional optical communication, wherein the first converging lens and the second converging lens are provided within said frame so as to face said optical filter, and said shielding section is provided within said frame" (see page 16, line 23 to page 23, line 5 and in FIG 2.). Accordingly, the cable-side optical communication unit of the present invention can realize contact communication and bidirectional optical communication as disclosed at page 25, line 19 to page 26, line 15 of the Applicant's specification.

Medved teaches a universal converter unit which carries out optical wireless communication with another universal converter as disclosed in column 6, line 49 to column 7, line 11 and in FIGS. 4 and 5. Medved also teaches a construction of the universal converter unit in FIG. 1 where the lens system 23 of the airlink receiver 21 and the lens system 27 of the airlink transmitter 26 protrude from the universal converter unit. As disclosed in FIGS. 4 and 5, the universal converter units are put apart when carrying out communication over the air. Therefore, Medved's universal converter unit fails to disclose the features as recited in claim 11. Moreover,

Medved's universal converter unit is for carrying out communication over the air, and fails to teach or suggest the contact surface, the first converging lens, and the second converging lens provided within the frame as recited in claim 11 of the present claimed invention.

Ota teaches filters 15a and 15b and a lens 2 in FIG. 4A. However, Ota's lens 2 is disposed outside the casing of an optical transceiver 1. Ota also teaches shielding pipes 877 and 878, a light source 875, a photodetecting element 876, and lenses 877 and 878 in FIGS. 22A and 22B as a different embodiment from that of FIG. 4A. As disclosed in column 8, line 66 to column 9, line 7, and at column 15, lines 19 – 30, Ota's invention is directed to free space communication.

It is submitted that a combination of Medved and Ota would suggest providing shielding pipes around the lenses 27 and 28 outside the housing of the universal converter unit; and providing filters within the airlink transmitter 26 and airlink receiver 21. Therefore, Medved and Ota, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features as recited in claim 11.

Accordingly, none of the cited prior art references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features recited in claim 11.

Independent claims 14, 24, and 25 are amended herein to recite similar features as those recited in claim 11 and thus, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art references for the reasons stated above.

Claims 12 and 13, and claims 16-18, 20, 21 and 23 depend from claims 11 and 14. Thus, for at least the reason that claims 11 and 14 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12, 13, 16-18, 20, 21 and 23 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

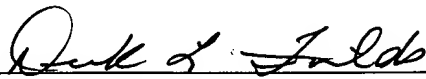
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Respectfully submitted,

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